KC-130J

DESCRIPTION

The KC-130 is a versatile, four-engine, tactical aerial refueler/transport that supports all six functions of Marine Aviation. It is the only long-range, fixed wing assault support capability organic to the Marine Corps. The KC-130J, with its increased speed (+20 percent) and range (+35 percent) over legacy aircraft, features an improved air-to-air refueling system and state-of- the-art flight station. The flight station includes two Head Up Displays (HUDs), night vision lighting, an augmented crew station, and fully integrated digital avionics architecture. An Allison AE 2100D3 propulsion system with full-authority digital electronic controls (FADEC), Dowty R391 advanced technology six-bladed propeller system, and a 250-knot cargo ramp and door, complete the package. The Marine Corps intends to replace its aging active fleet of KC-130Fs, KC-130Rs, with the new KC-130J.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

The KC-130 provides both fixed-wing and helicopter tactical in-flight refueling, and rapid ground refueling of aircraft or tactical vehicles. The aircraft also provides assault air transport of air-landed or air-delivered personnel, supplies, and equipment. Other missions include command-and-control augmentation, pathfinder, battlefield illumination, tactical aero-medical evacuation, and tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel support. This aircraft is a force-multiplier that is well suited to the mission needs of the forward deployed MAGTF. The KC-130J will provide increased capability and mission flexibility with its satellite communications system, survivability enhancements, night systems, enhanced rapid ground refueling, and improved aircraft systems.

PROGRAM STATUS

The KC-130J is procured as a commercial-off-the-shelf aircraft currently in production. In FY 2003, the Marine Corps entered a multi-year procurement program with the US Air Force to bring the total number of KC-130J aircraft under contract to 33. The Marine Corps program of record for the KC-130J is 51 aircraft. Developmental and operational testing and an operational evaluation are scheduled for FY 2004, along with continued delivery to the fleet and an initial operational capability by September 2004.

PROCUREMENT PROFILE:	FY04	FY05
Quantity:	0	4

DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER:

Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company